

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 AID-05 /071 W

----- 126624

R 270419Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 006

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CB

SUBJ: LON NON PUBLICLY STATES HIS POLITICAL INTENTIONS

1. PRESIDENT LON NOL'S YOUNGER BROTHER, LON NON, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A PRIVATE KHMER LANGUAGE DAILY, DECLARED THAT HE RESIGNED FROM FANK EFFECTIVE MARCH 25 (HE WAS A BRIGADIER GENERAL). HE SAID THAT HE IS A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE RULING SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY (THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAN SOTHI IS THE INCUMBENT). IN AN INTERPRETATION OF SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY RULES THAT IS CERTAINLY NOT SHARED BY PAN SOTHI AND HIS GROUP AND DOES NOT SQUARE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OR PAST PRACTICE, LON NON TOLD THE PRESS THAT SINCE PAN SOTHI, HANG THUN HAK, ETC. ARE IN THE CABINET, THEY MUST NOW RELINQUISH THEIR LEADING PARTY ROLES AND BECOME SIMPLE MEMBERS. ACCORDINGLY, LON NON HIMSELF IS NOW THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL. "PETIT FRERE" ADDED THAT HE WOULD PUT SOME "ORDER" INTO PARTY AFFAIRS BEFORE SCHEDULING ELECTIONS.

2. COMMENT: LON NON HAS THROWN DOWN THE GAUNTLET TO PAN SOTHI, HANG THUN HAK AND OTHERS IN THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY WHO OPPOSE HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS. WHETHER HIS COMMENTS TO THE PRESS WILL BE FOLLOWED UP  
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BY OTHER ACTIONS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. OVER THE PAST

SEVERAL MONTHS, LON NOL HAS SEVERAL TIMES REINED IN HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, BUT WITH THE MARSHAL'S OWN STATUS IN DOUBT AT THE MOMENT, HE MAY NOT BE ABLE OR WILLING TO DO SO AGAIN. END COMMENT.

3. IN OTHER REMARKS, LON NON SAID IT WOULD NOT BE "REALISTIC" FOR HIS OLDER BROTHER TO LEAVE, SINCE THE OTHER SIDE HAS INDICATED IT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CALLED FOR A STRONGER CONSTITUTION AND EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT CUT OFF AID TO THE GKR.

4. THE INTERVIEW HAS BEEN REPORTED BY AFP, AP AND PROBABLY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS CORPS HERE. DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS INTERVIEWS, PARTY ORGANIZATION, POLITICAL PARTIES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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